



THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY
ST LUCIA QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA, 4067

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Prof. B.N.Runnegar
University of New England.

Dear Bruce,

I have your letter of 2nd inst., and thank you for your kind interest in the Autobiography project. However, when I came to write it I found I could not change the essential me which is a 'private individual', and this has precluded my ~~xxo~~

proceeding with it. Instead I send

- 1) an outline of ~~xxx~~ my attitudes to the main incidents in my life when the male v female argument came up, including my analyses of my reactins to them.
- 2) Two pages that I wrote to comply with Royal Society of Londons request for personal details, and which is included also in the history of my lines (Rigby, Kington and Hill) which my sister got together ~~whixx~~ for these lineages in Australia.
- 3) The nearest that I have come to autobiography - a talk I gave to an Alumni meeting, as reported in the University News of 2 June 1976, called "A personal view of this University's history"

Sorry I couldn't change myself. I send you all this so that you and/or the Jell brothers can make something of it when it comes to Obituary time. Perhaps if you leave Australia you would pass it on to the Jell brothers.

Best regards,

Dorothy Hill

One's attitudes to 'women's liberation' etc. derive very largely from the family environment in which one grew up. My family was the average Queensland family of the early 20th century. All 8 of my great-grandparents were English villagers of the 19th century, and my parents inherited from them Victorian ethics based on Protestant Christianity and the virtues of work, as modified since migration to Australia.

It was accepted that men were the breadwinners who worked hard to support their womenfolk and shield them from the hard cold world

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cold world, and encouraged them to develop womanly accomplishments such as housekeeping, cooking and sewing, and musical and other artistic ability.

Secondary education was becoming available to my generation in Queensland, when we were growing up, and the University of Queensland was ~~xx~~ founded a few years after I was born. We were all encouraged to get as high an~~x~~ education as we could, and I went on from Grammar School to University, the first of my three Australian lineages to do so.

Reading at home was encouraged by presents of annual volumes of "Chums " for the boys and the Girls Own Paper (or was it the Girls own Annual.) I found the girls paper insipid and read only the more exciting "Chums". We were also supplied liberally with cheap editions of the classics, and all read the Brisbane Courier. We attended Sunday School and were all quite literate in the Bible. We were all taught to read musical scores and to play the piano. My mother's sisters and brothers all had good singing voices, several were concert performers and we had many family musical evenings. I was regarded as both tomboy and bookworm but as not very musical. Indeed I developed an interest in music only late in life when my eyesight was threaten~~de~~.

At school and university, boys and girls were treated as equals in competitions for places. I noted that I was not inferior to males in intellectual ability, though clearly weaker in physical strength. I knew also that males unconsciously assumed that women had no administrative ability and that to put a female in a position of authority over a male was tantamount to reducing his manhood, and hence his capacity as breadwinner. It was clear however that my mother had great organisational ability which I therefore assumed all women had; indeed I knew I had it myself. My mother was adept at applied psychology, and it was interesting to observe how she achieved her will over the various members of the family. She never dented anyones ego, she applied dependable support quietly from the background whenever it was needed, and she never implied that we might not succeed in anything we undertook. In spite of the Victorian ethic that women's place was in the home, she believed firmly in the rights of the individual (individuals to her included women, though most males at the time hardly thought of women as individuals when the rights of the individual were under discussion). Her observation of the Brisbane world had taught her that girls needed the insurance of training for a career against the death or infidelity

of a spouse, or the possibility that she might choose not to marry. None of her daughters were urged to find partners, and none were given to feel, as most of their friends did, that it was either a calamity or a disgrace not to marry. My father, a cheerful hard-working man[#] supported her in "bringing up the children" though he clearly regarded this as part of women's work, though he felt it was his job to provide for his women folk.

I graduated from the university at the beginning of the Great Depression. There were then no jobs for geologists, and certainly none for women geologists. Geologists all had to be field geologists then, and it was thought that women in field parties were impossibly complicating - as if their presence necessarily implied that men ~~were~~ would be 'tempted', and if so that they would like Adam, 'fall'. Logically it also implied that men were "weak", not women. though social mores decreed that it was the "frail" woman who fell, and became "fallen women". Thus the alternatives before me at graduation were to get a research scholarship overseas, or to find employment as a shop assistant (presumably possible then because my father was ~~the~~ a director of a large "drapery" store). My first attempt was unsuccessful, the award going to a male competitor with high honours in Classics. I told myself he probably had a better overall academic record than mine (I had spent a good deal of time playing hockey and enjoying the various amusements of the undergraduates of the time). I did not let myself believe that sex came into the selection.

The next year I applied again. Prof. Richards had returned from overseas leave, he was a power in academic committees, and he supported~~ed~~ my applications strongly. I had the choice of two overseas scholarships, and chose ^{offered by the U. C. A.} ~~the one that sent me to Cambridge~~ which had a better reputation for geology than Oxford. In doing so I disappointed another woman who felt she might have won the one I ^{chose} ~~got~~ had I chosen the other, and who reproached me for not supporting another woman, though indeed at the time I was not aware she was an entrant. My choice helped a fellow ^(male) scientist to go to London.

While in Cambridge I indulged in "individual" research, which had become and has ever since remained~~y~~ my chosen occupation, to which teaching ran a close second. There seemed to be no sex discrimination in the award of Research Fellowships, and I proceeded^y from one to another until the depression was clearing^y
in 1936-7

I began to feel that I should look for a permanent job in Australia. About this time Richards visited Cambridge and told me if I wished to return to Queensland he thought he could secure for me one of the new Research fellowships being instituted at the universities with federal monies disbursed through the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. This of course was not permanent but it would put me in the right place if more secure opportunities should arise, and in due course I returned to my original university, with grateful memories of all Cambridge had given me. For the next two years I worked fruitfully, on a wide range of Australian corals. When war broke and the Japanese approached I felt very keenly that not being male I could not play a very active part in the defence of the country, but when the Registrar told me that women were wanted in cypher work for the R.A.N. and C.I.C.S.W. Pacific, I obtained leave of absence from my Fellowship and later became a W.R.A.N.S. Officer ^{and} working in the Operations Office of the R.A.N. in Brisbane. I enjoyed the excitement of being part of the machine, and came to have a very high respect for most of my male fellow officers, who were completely dedicated to their profession and gave their utmost. I found nearly all easy to work with, and free from bias of sex.

0A Jones?

The war over, I returned to CSIR funded research at the University. A man had been appointed to the permanent lecturing staff meanwhile; I felt that my qualifications were better, and asked why I had not been given a chance to show what I could do. The reply was that because of Richards state of health, the new appointment needed to be in economic geology, which was Richards specialty. I somewhat doubtfully accepted the explanation, but felt that if I could not get a chance to show what I could do it would continue to be more or less unconsciously assumed by the universities necessarily all-male appointing committees that women were inferior at administration. A chance to show what lecturing ability I had came quickly. Richards health deteriorated again and a temporary lecturer was needed. I was appointed, worked hard at my lecturing, found the work with students very rewarding, and felt that I was showing that I could lecture better than most. Richards returned to duty after a while, and fortuitously I received at this time ^{from Sir Douglas Mawson of Adelaide University} a letter asking whether I would be interested in a lecturing job he was about to advertise. I took the letter along to Richards, who immediately took it over to the Vice-Chancellor, all powerful at the time, with the result that I received an assurance that my job would be made permanent, which happened after ^{the usual} tactical money-saving delays. (VC very frugal)

White house

After Richards death Bryan became head of department and asked me to look after historical geology in the department. This I was delighted to do; I wanted[#] to build up this section, and was gradually able to do so, by myself introducing a course in sedimentology, and urging the appointment of a lecturer in this and[#] in stratigraphy and petroleum geology. Bryan succeeded in having an appointment made of a man who could do all three as well as teach in palaeontology. I was very glad of the opportunity to show that I was a capable administrator, and did so, ^{to my own satisfaction} though it gave me a very heavy teaching programme. I built up a strong post-graduate research section, and enjoyed very much the contact with these young, fertile minds; and it gave me immense pleasure to introduce them to the superb intellectual pleasures of palaeontological research. There were frustrations during this period however; due to the sequence of wartime appointments my seniority in the department was, I felt, too low; ~~though~~ Bryan was reluctant to change it, and promotions were made that did not disturb it. I do not think his preferences were due to sex bias however, and of course such things happened in male v. male competition all the time. It was clearly no use getting all worked up ~~about it~~, and I certainly did not intend to develop high ^{too} ~~bo~~ pressure or become soured in any way. What cannot be cured must be endured, as clearly indicated by numerous contemporary examples as well as those in classical literature. I found great satisfaction in performing to my own very high standards -- individualism helped.

My growing international reputation as a coral palaeontologist^{us} reinforced my pleasure, as did my election as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science. I felt I had reached the peak of ~~xxxxxx~~ scientific achievement when in 1965 I was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.

When Bryan retired in 1959 I applied^{ed} for the headship of the department, but was not successful. I was instead appointed Research Fellow with full professorial status. I was unable to ~~de~~ decide whether my sex had any part in this. Ostensible reasons were that one member of the appointments committee[#] regarded historical geology as a branch that was to become less important in the scale of things; I was also said^(by another) to hold a belief that it was the most important branch of geology and that I might neglect the other[#] branches. This latter was a misreading of my outlook. Had I been appointed I would have endeavoured to bring the other branches up to the high level attained in ^{the department} historical^c geology

There was probably a general belief on the committee that geology was a male discipline, ~~so~~ closely dependent ^{as it was} on field work and mining. However I accepted the situation, and continued to work hard to see to it that historical geology received proper treatment.

In 1969 the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) asked me if I would stand for election as President of the Professorial Board. I had a sneaking suspicion that nobody wanted such a job at the time of student revolt, which indeed greatly increased over the next year or so. However, I thought it would give me the opportunity to show to my male colleagues that I (and therefore other women) could be good administrators, and I agreed to stand. ~~However~~ The Board elected a male colleague. After some months circumstances changed and this time I was elected and served as President for 1971-2, during which time I was able to reassure my colleagues as to the administrative ability of women.

So when I retired I felt pleased that I had been able to vindicate my view of my own and therefore women's abilities in teaching, research and administration. I have never been a "women's liberationist" in the militant sense, believing that it is better to achieve by example than by force.

When I looked back over my academic career, I noted that my urge was to rise to my own standards of achievement. I knew that I had no wish for power as such; I saw that many people valued power over others as the prime goal. I could see no pleasure in it. When I had it I ^{tried} to use it with justice and compassion, while recognising that ruthlessness was necessary on occasion.

The University made it possible for me after my retirement to complete my Treatise on the Palaeozoic Corals; this was done without collaborators, my individualism ^{thus} asserting itself perhaps most strongly at the end of my scientific career.

Apologies for the typing, Bruce

Dorothy Hill (1907-)

Dorothy Hill was born on Sept. 10, 1907, in Alpha St., Taringa, Brisbane. She was the third child of Robert Sampson Hill and Sarah Jane, nee Kington. R.S.Hill was born at 7 Alfred St., Sparkbrook, Birmingham on Dec. 6, 1876, the 3-weeks posthumous child of Abel Hill, a needle maker, and his wife Mary nee also Hill. Abel was born at Inkberrow, Worcestershire; his death from pneumonia was unexpected and family circumstances were suddenly diminished. Mary worked as a laundress, and no doubt her older children helped by earning what they could; one was trained as a carpenter and another as a painter. In 1884 her son Arthur Abel, the painter, and his sister Elizabeth then aged 19 and 16, emigrated to Brisbane on S.S. Dorunda to prepare a home for Mary and the two younger members of the family, who followed in 1885 on R.M.S. Quetta. They lived at 31 (Tyseley Cottage) Marmion Parade, Taringa, and there, as Robert (Bob) grew up, he met Sarah Jane Kington, the daughter of William Kington II and his wife Catherine Susannah Rigby. William had arrived in Moreton Bay as an infant of 1 year, with his parents and brothers. His father, William Kington I and mother Jane nee Handcock, were both born in Corsham, Wiltshire, where William I was the son of a tailor, Samuel Kington, and Jane was the son of a carrier. William II was an agricultural labourer, and worked for a couple of years on Jondaryan Station on the Darling Downs; he then moved with his family to (West) Ipswich, where he died of sunstroke in 186. His wife married again, and her sons were apprenticed in various trades. William II became a boot-maker, and set up shop in Warwick, on the Darling Downs. There he met and married Catherine Susannah nee Rigby, the fourth child of Edwin George Rigby and his wife Eleanor Lott, who had migrated to Moreton Bay from Chatham Kent, where they were both born, in 1852, on the *barque* "Agricola". Edwin George was the son of a hatter, James Rigby, whose other son, William Charles, migrated to *Melbourne*, Australia in 185, and later to Adelaide, where he started the bookshop which eventually became Rigby's the publishers.

Thus all eight of Dorothy's great-grandparents were English villagers. They were all members of the established church in England, but those who migrated to Queensland all found the Church of England unwelcoming, and attended the nearest nonconformist church.. William II and Catherine (Kate) moved to Brisbane in 1884, and by 1893 were living in Moggill Rd., Taringa, where Willie set up a bootmaking business at the side front of his house.

After their marriage in 1910, Bob and Sarah set up house in Alpha St Taringa. Their three elder children attended a local kindergarten and then moved on to state school. The family moved to a new house at 241 Cavendish Rd., Coorparoo in 1912, and from there Dorothy attended the Coorparoo State School, obtaining a State Scholarship to take her to the Brisbane Girls Grammar School (1920-1924). Bob was a successful business man, becoming a director of the firm of Allan & Stark, which he had joined as a junior. The family was brought up with horses, which were Bob's hobby, and all learned to ride well. In 1924 a family car was acquired, but Bob found it difficult to master the new propulsion; his elder children were only too eager to drive for him. Now, instead of the family taking its summer holidays at the seaside (mostly Redcliffe), adventuresome camping car tours were made, and Sunday afternoon or all day family car picnics were enjoyed. Unfortunately Bob was overtaken by the incurable Parkinson's disease, which left him unable to do all he wished for his children, though he accomplished a great deal for them.

For 1925 Dorothy won an Open Scholarship to Queensland University which paid her fees and gave an annual bursary of £20,; she had a successful career at the University, in sport as well as academically, as indeed before at the Grammar School, where she had won the Sports Brooch for 1924. She played hockey for the University and for the Australian Universities, and was awarded blues. Her scientific and subsequent academic career has been well covered in several publications, notably two by her geological colleague A.K. Denmead and her geological student, Bruce Runnegar, ^{and John Tell.} Xerox copies of some pages from these follow, and anyone wanting further information can acquire it from the ^(Cited books in the) University of Queensland Dept. of Geology Library.. These papers take her career up to 1982. .

The University of Queensland commissioned, and installed in ¹⁹⁸³ 1893 on the facade of the geology building, a sculptured head of Dorothy, in the form of a gargoyle or grotesque, The head is a good likeness. The Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science awarded her the ANZAAS medal, its highest award, in 1983. In 1984^{5th} she still works three hours a day in the Geology Department of the University. *The Geology Library was named after her in 1984⁵.*